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(54) **FEED TRANSLATION FOR A SOCIAL NETWORK**

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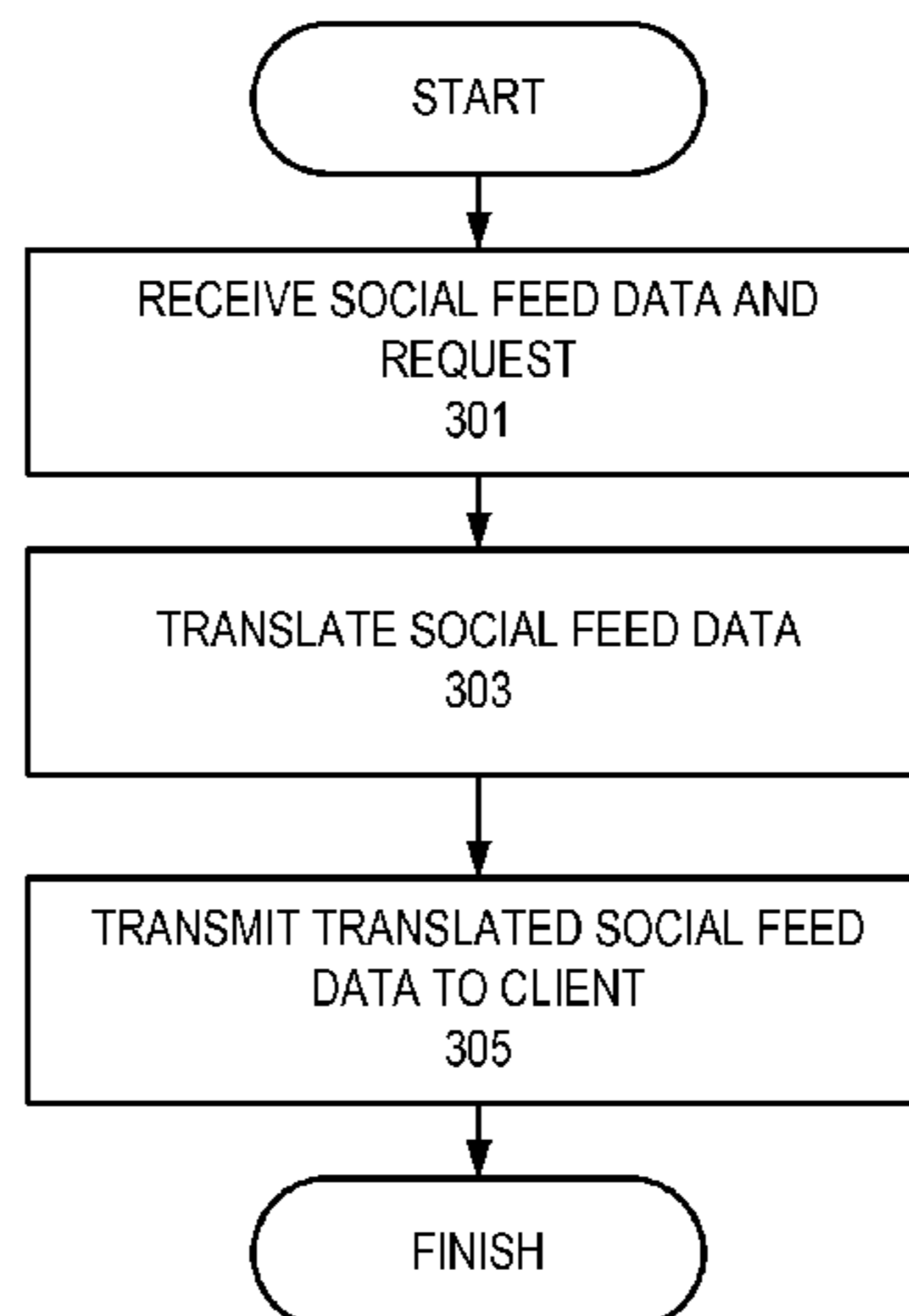
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A system and method for translating a social feed is disclosed. The system comprises a communication module, a decoding engine and a re-encoding engine. The communication module receives social feed data and a request from a social network application. The social feed data is configured to cause a client to display a social feed in a first language. The request includes data indicating that the social feed should be displayed in a second language. The decoding engine decodes the social feed data to generate decoded social feed data. The re-encoding engine re-encodes the decoded social feed data to cause the client to display the social feed in the second language based at least in part on the request. The communication module sends the translated social feed data to the client.

26 Claims, 5 Drawing Sheets



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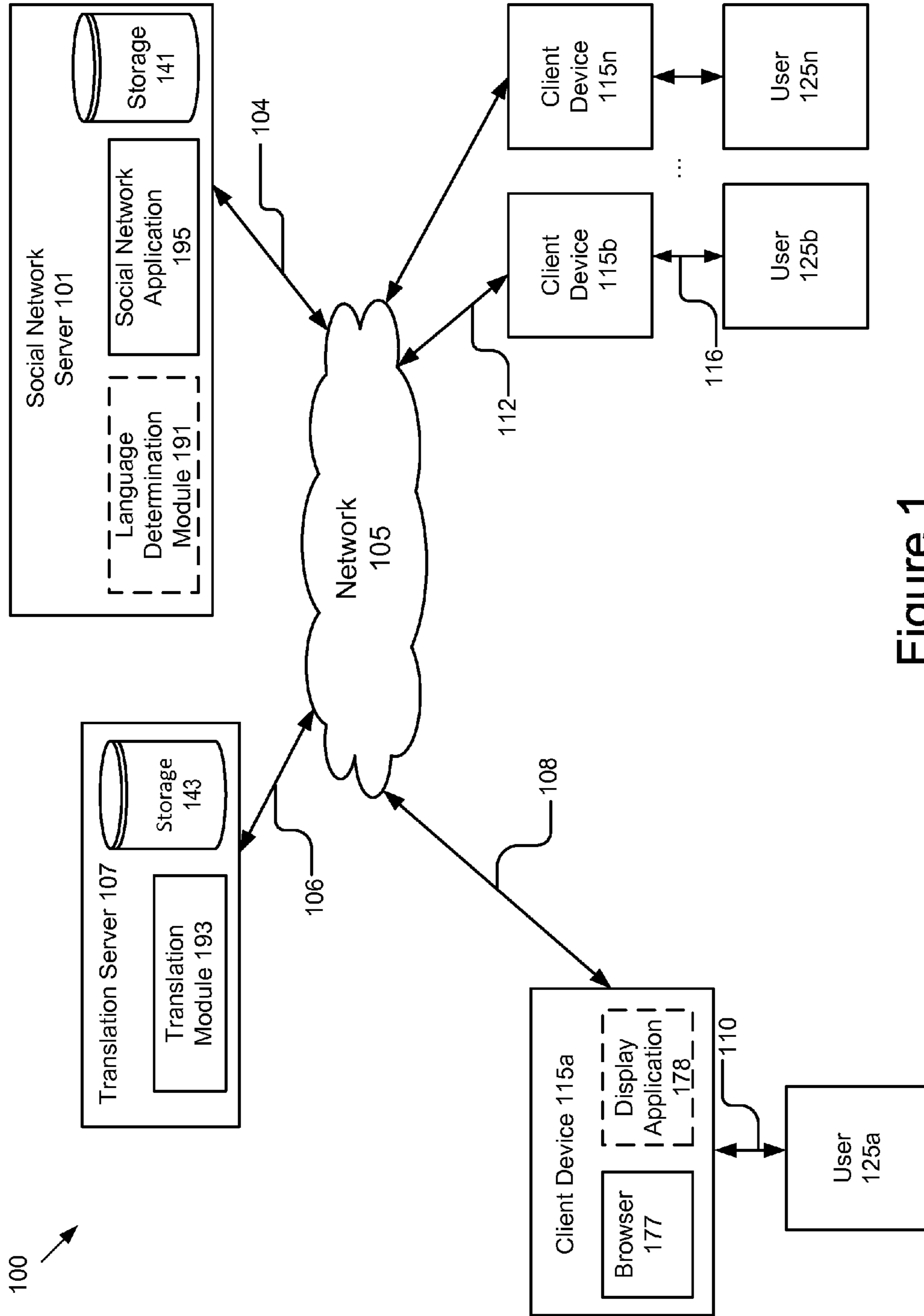


Figure 1

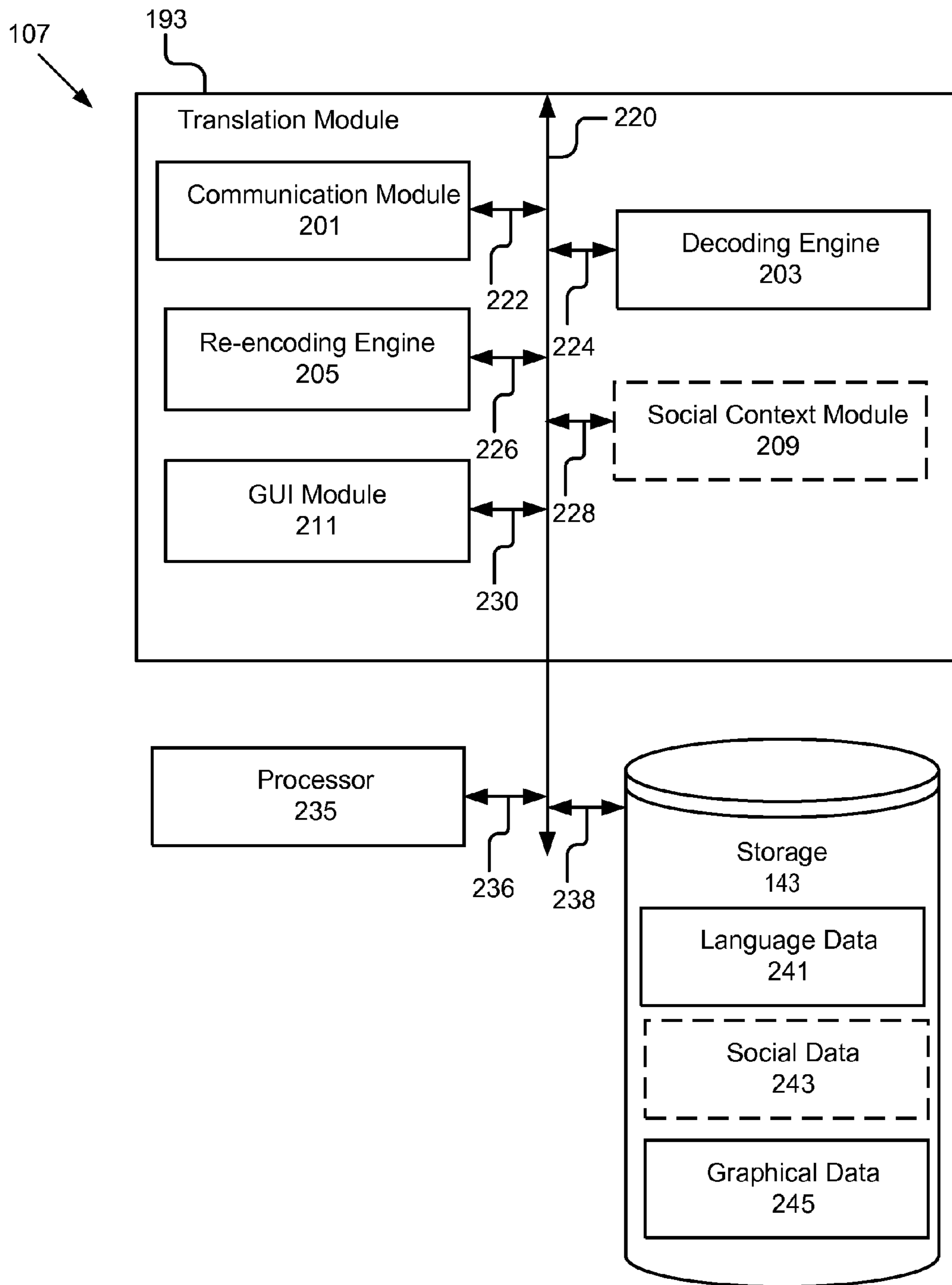


Figure 2

300

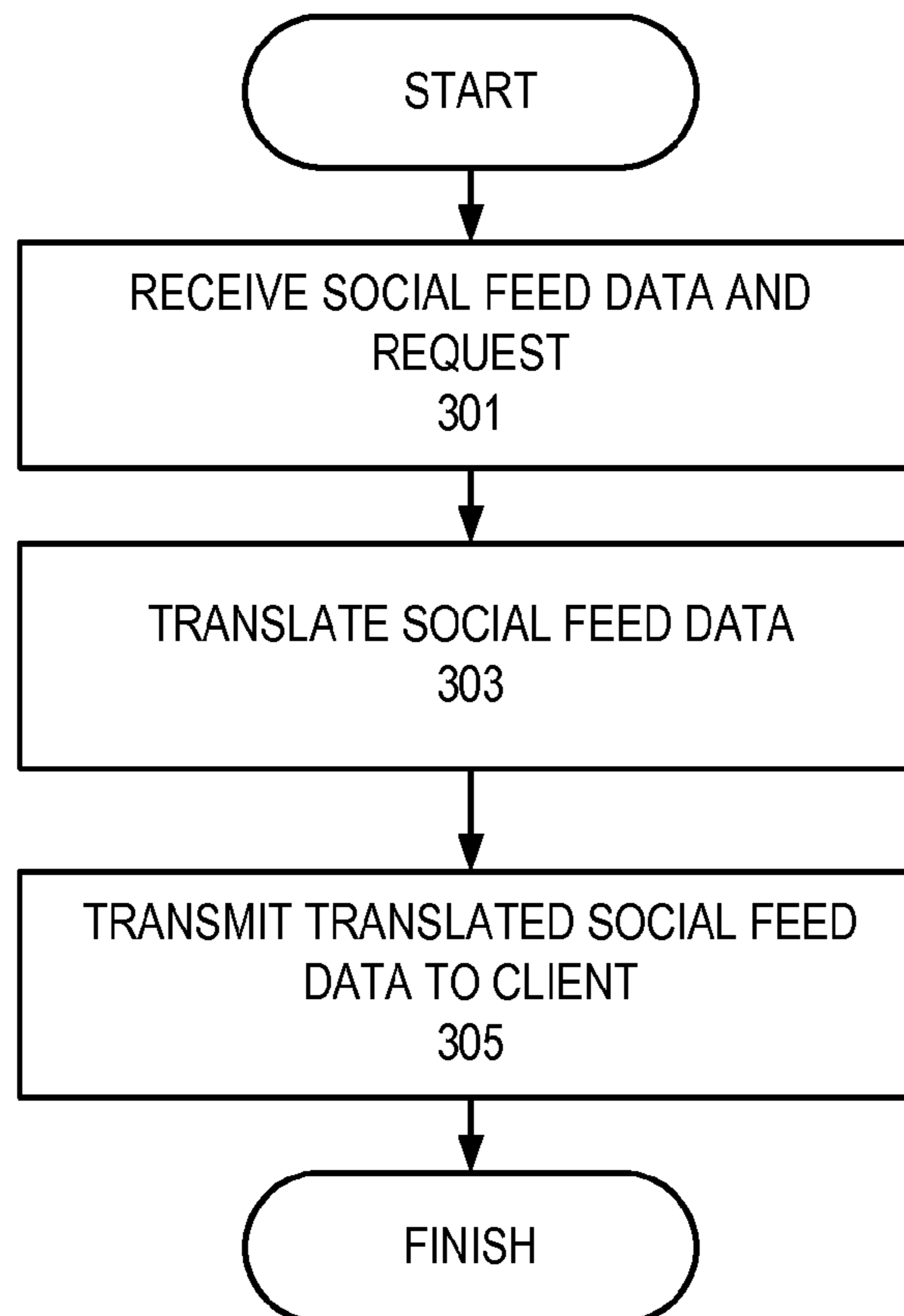


Figure 3

400

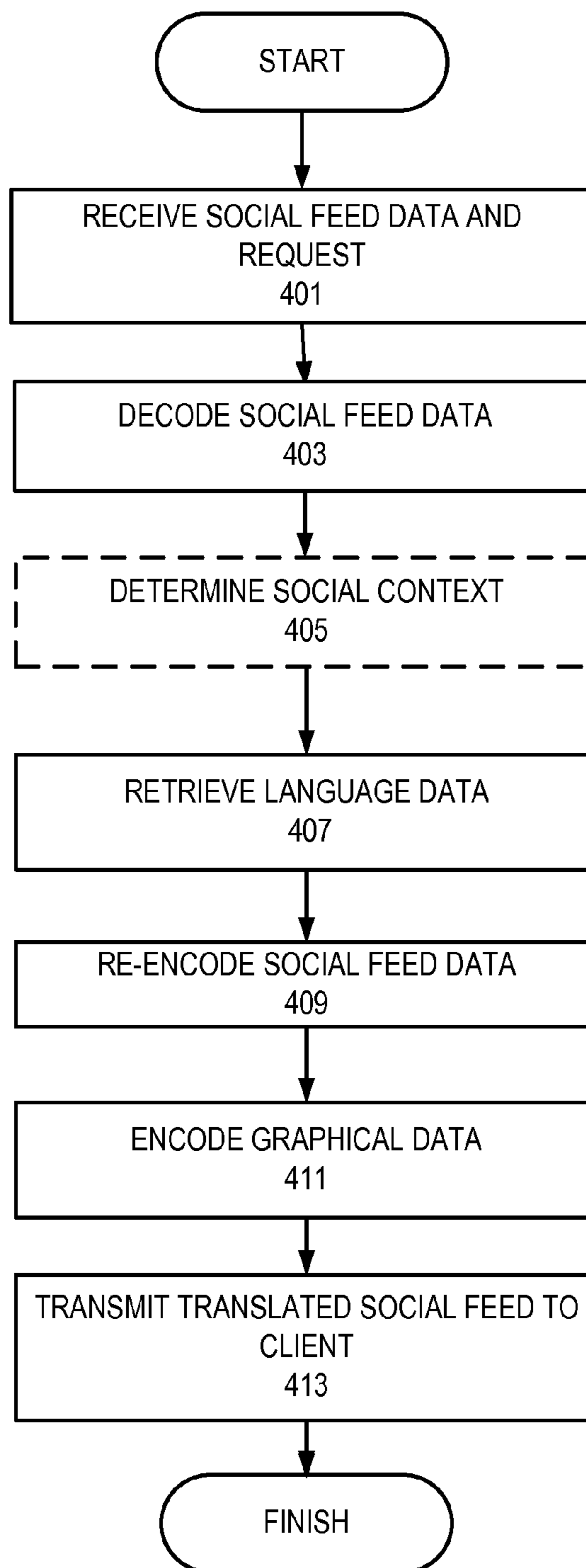


Figure 4

500

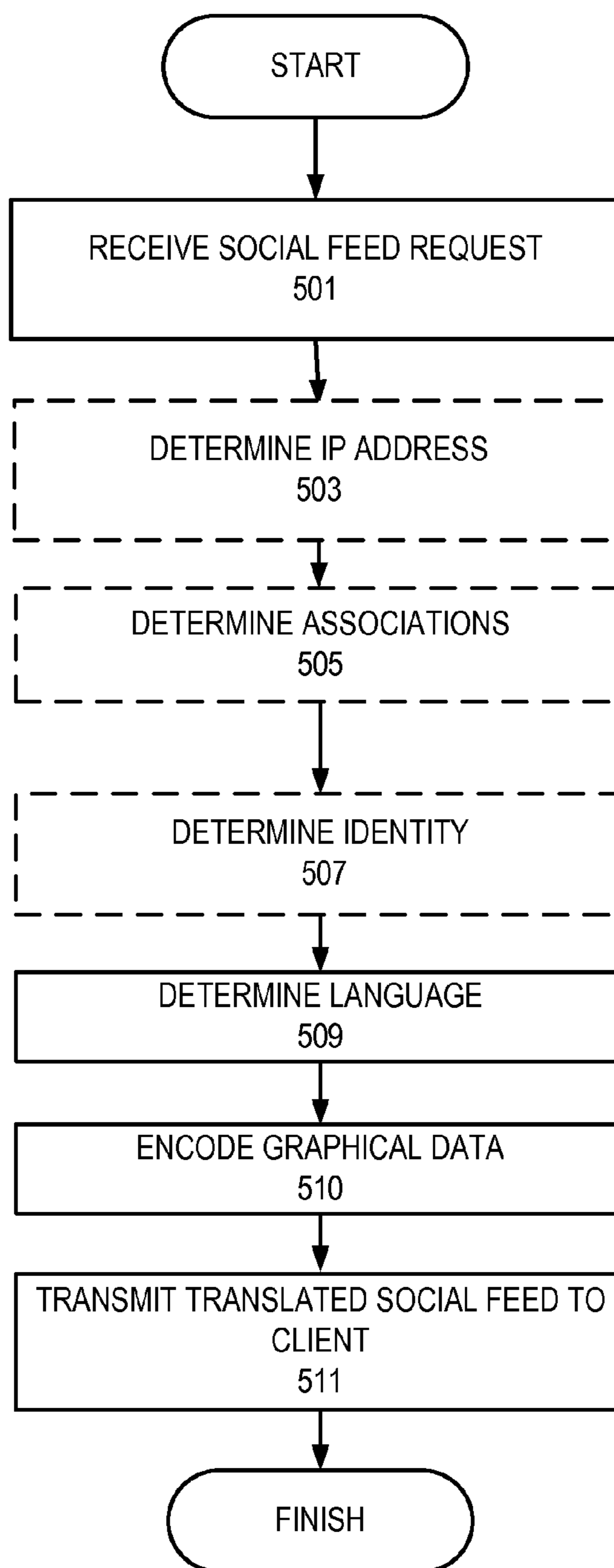


Figure 5

1

FEED TRANSLATION FOR A SOCIAL NETWORK

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a continuation of U.S. application Ser. No. 13/231,270, entitled “Feed Translation for a Social Network,” filed Sep. 13, 2011, which claims priority under 35 USC §. 119(e) to U.S. Application No. 61/488,400, entitled “Feed Translation for a Social Network,” filed May 20, 2011, the entirety of each of which is herein incorporated by reference.

BACKGROUND

The specification relates to a system and method for machine translation. In particular, the specification relates to translating a feed for a social network.

Social network applications are growing in popularity. These services appeal to millions of people all over the world. Collectively, these users communicate in many different languages.

Users access the social network application using a browser or a thin-client application stored on a client device. The social network application provides the user with a social feed that is displayed by the client. This feed includes content such as user updates, comments and other content common to social networks. Frequently this feed will include content in languages that are not used by the user. For example, the user speaks the Spanish language but the content is displayed in the English language. The user desires to have the content translated from the English language to the Spanish language. Existing translation solutions have numerous problems.

First, existing solutions require all the content in a social feed to be translated. However, users frequently only want a portion of the social feed to be translated. Second, existing solutions cannot translate content in the social feed based off of inferences regarding the user’s preferred language. Existing translation solutions have numerous other problems.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The technology described in the specification overcomes the deficiencies and limitations of the prior art at least in part by providing a system and method for translating a feed for a social network. The system comprises a communication module, a decoding engine and a re-encoding engine. The communication module receives social feed data and a request from a social network application. The social feed data is configured to cause a client to display a social feed in a first language, for example, via a browser or a display application. The request includes data indicating that the social feed should be displayed in a second language. In one embodiment, the request includes a subset command that includes a first indication that only a portion of the social feed should be translated and a second indication of which portion of the social feed should be translated.

The decoding engine decodes the social feed data to generate decoded social feed data. The re-encoding engine re-encodes the decoded social feed data to cause the client to display the social feed in the second language based at least in part on the request. The communication module sends the translated social feed data to the client. Because the decoding and re-encoding is being performed on the server side, the specification describes an efficient and simplistic process for fast translation.

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In one embodiment, a social context module receives the request and determines a social context for the translation. The social context module communicates with the re-encoding engine to cause the social feed data to be translated, which results in the client displaying the social feed in the one or more second languages based at least in part on the request and the determined social context. In another example, the social context includes determining one or more social activities of a user requesting the translation and the language used by the user in the one or more social activities. In another example, the social context includes determining one or more relations of a user requesting the translation and the language used by the one or more relations.

A graphical user interface module encodes graphical data in the translated social feed data that causes a client to generate a graphic indicating that the social feed has been translated.

The specification also includes a method for translating a social feed by receiving social feed data and a request, the social feed data configured to cause a client to display a social feed in a first language, translating the social feed so that the social feed data causes the client to display the social feed in one or more second languages based at least in part on the request and sending the translated social feed data to the client.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The specification is illustrated by way of example, and not by way of limitation in the figures of the accompanying drawings in which like reference numerals are used to refer to similar elements.

FIG. 1 is a high-level block diagram illustrating one embodiment of a system for translating a feed for a social network.

FIG. 2 is a block diagram illustrating one embodiment of a translation module.

FIG. 3 is a flow diagram of one embodiment of a method for translating a feed for a social network.

FIG. 4 is a flow diagram of another embodiment of a method for translating a feed for a social network.

FIG. 5 is a flow diagram of yet another embodiment of a method for translating a feed for a social network.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

A system and method for translating a feed for a social network is described below. In the following description, for purposes of explanation, numerous specific details are set forth in order to provide a thorough understanding of the specification. It will be apparent, however, to one skilled in the art that the disclosure can be practiced without these specific details. In other instances, structures and devices are shown in block diagram form in order to avoid obscuring the disclosure. For example, the specification is described in one embodiment below with reference to user interfaces and particular hardware. However, the disclosure applies to any type of computing device that can receive data and commands, and any peripheral devices providing services.

Reference in the specification to “one embodiment” or “an embodiment” means that a particular feature, structure, or characteristic described in connection with the embodiment is included in at least one embodiment of the specification. The appearances of the phrase “in one embodiment” in various places in the specification are not necessarily all referring to the same embodiment.

Some portions of the detailed descriptions that follow are presented in terms of algorithms and symbolic representations of operations on data bits within a computer memory. These algorithmic descriptions and representations are the means used by those skilled in the data processing arts to most effectively convey the substance of their work to others skilled in the art. An algorithm is here, and generally, conceived to be a self consistent sequence of steps leading to a desired result. The steps are those requiring physical manipulations of physical quantities. Usually, though not necessarily, these quantities take the form of electrical or magnetic signals capable of being stored, transferred, combined, compared and otherwise manipulated. It has proven convenient at times, principally for reasons of common usage, to refer to these signals as bits, values, elements, symbols, characters, terms, numbers or the like.

It should be borne in mind, however, that all of these and similar terms are to be associated with the appropriate physical quantities and are merely convenient labels applied to these quantities. Unless specifically stated otherwise as apparent from the following discussion, it is appreciated that throughout the description, discussions utilizing terms such as “processing” or “computing” or “calculating” or “determining” or “displaying” or the like, refer to the action and processes of a computer system, or similar electronic computing device, that manipulates and transforms data represented as physical (electronic) quantities within the computer system’s registers and memories into other data similarly represented as physical quantities within the computer system memories or registers or other such information storage, transmission or display devices.

The specification also relates to an apparatus for performing the operations herein. This apparatus may be specially constructed for the required purposes, or it may comprise a general-purpose computer selectively activated or reconfigured by a computer program stored in the computer. Such a computer program may be stored in a computer readable storage medium, such as, but is not limited to, any type of disk including floppy disks, optical disks, CD-ROMs, and magnetic disks, read-only memories (ROMs), random access memories (RAMs), EPROMs, EEPROMs, magnetic or optical cards, flash memories including USB keys with non-volatile memory or any type of media suitable for storing electronic instructions, each coupled to a computer system bus.

The specification can take the form of an entirely hardware embodiment, an entirely software embodiment or an embodiment containing both hardware and software elements. In a preferred embodiment, the disclosure is implemented in software, which includes but is not limited to firmware, resident software, microcode, etc.

Furthermore, the specification can take the form of a computer program product accessible from a computer-usable or computer-readable medium providing program code for use by or in connection with a computer or any instruction execution system. For the purposes of this description, a computer-usable or computer readable medium can be any apparatus that can contain, store, communicate, propagate, or transport the program for use by or in connection with the instruction execution system, apparatus, or device.

A data processing system suitable for storing and/or executing program code will include at least one processor coupled directly or indirectly to memory elements through a system bus. The memory elements can include local memory employed during actual execution of the program code, bulk storage, and cache memories which provide temporary stor-

age of at least some program code in order to reduce the number of times code must be retrieved from bulk storage during execution.

Input/output or I/O devices (including but not limited to keyboards, displays, pointing devices, etc.) can be coupled to the system either directly or through intervening I/O controllers.

Network adapters may also be coupled to the system to enable the data processing system to become coupled to other data processing systems or remote printers or storage devices through intervening private or public networks. Modems, cable modem and Ethernet cards are just a few of the currently available types of network adapters.

Finally, the algorithms and displays presented herein are not inherently related to any particular computer or other apparatus. Various general-purpose systems may be used with programs in accordance with the teachings herein, or it may prove convenient to construct more specialized apparatus to perform the required method steps. The required structure for a variety of these systems will appear from the description below. In addition, the specification is not described with reference to any particular programming language. It will be appreciated that a variety of programming languages may be used to implement the teachings of the disclosure as described herein.

System Overview

FIG. 1 illustrates a block diagram of a system **100** for translating a feed for a social network according to one embodiment. The system **100** includes client devices **115a**, **115b**, **115n** that are accessed by human users **125a**, **125b**, **125n**, a social network server **101** and a translation server **107**. In one embodiment, the translation server **107** is trusted with some secure information by the social network server **101**. For example, the translation server **107** is trusted with data describing a social graph by the social network server **101**. In the illustrated embodiment, these entities are communicatively coupled via a network **105**. Although only three client devices **115a**, **115b**, **115n** are illustrated, persons having ordinary skill in the art will recognize that any number of client devices **115n** are available to any number of users **125n**. Persons having ordinary skill in the art will also appreciate that any number of users **125n** can use (or access) a single client device **115n**. Furthermore, while only one network **105** is coupled to the client devices **115a**, **115b**, **115n**, the social network server **101** and the translation server **107**, in practice any number of networks **105** can be connected to the social network server **101** and the translation server **107**. Persons having ordinary skill in the art will also appreciate that while only one social network server **101** and one translation server **107** are depicted in FIG. 1, the system **100** could include one or more social network servers **101** and one or more translation servers **107**.

The network **105** is a conventional type, wired or wireless, and may have any number of configurations such as a star configuration, token ring configuration or other configurations known to those skilled in the art. Furthermore, the network **105** may comprise a local area network (LAN), a wide area network (WAN) (e.g., the Internet), and/or any other interconnected data path across which multiple devices may communicate. In yet another embodiment, the network **105** may be a peer-to-peer network. The network **105** may also be coupled to or includes portions of a telecommunications network for sending data in a variety of different communication protocols. For example, the network is a 3G network or a 4G network. In yet another embodiment, the network **105** includes Bluetooth communication networks or a cellular communications network for sending and receiving

data such as via short messaging service (SMS), multimedia messaging service (MMS), hypertext transfer protocol (HTTP), direct data connection, WAP, email, etc.

In the illustrated embodiment, the client device **115a** is communicatively coupled to the network **105** via signal line **108**. The user **125a** interacts with the client device **115a** as represented by signal line **110**. Similarly, the client device **115b** is coupled to the network **105** via signal line **112**. Client device **115n** and user **125n** are coupled and interact in a similar manner. The user **125b** interacts with the client device **115b** as represented by signal line **116**. The translation server **107** is communicatively coupled to the network **105** via signal line **106**. The social network server **101** is communicatively coupled to the network **105** via signal line **104**.

The social network server **101** is a hardware server device. For example, the social network server **101** is a hardware server operated by Google® of Mountain View, Calif. In one embodiment, the social network server **101** sends and receives data to and from one or more of the client devices **115a**, **115b**, **115n** via the network **105**. For example, the social network server **101** is a hardware server that provides one or more of the Google® Friend Connect services and the Google® Buzz services to the client devices **115a**, **115b**, **115n**. A person having ordinary skill in the art will recognize that the social network server **101** can be configured to provide different services and/or functionality to the client devices **115a**, **115b**, **115n**.

In one embodiment, the social network server **101** is a device that is trusted by the users **125a**, **125b**, **125n** of the client devices **115a**, **115b**, **115n**. For example, the users **125a**, **125b**, **125n** of the client devices **115a**, **115b**, **115n** share data and/or other information about the users **125a**, **125b**, **125n** and/or the client devices **115a**, **115b**, **115n** with the social network server **101**. In one embodiment, the social network application **195** collects this information and stores it as a social graph in the storage device **141**.

In one embodiment, the social network server **101** comprises, among other things, a storage device **141** and a social network application **195**. In one embodiment, the social network server **101** comprises a language determination module **191**. The language determination module **191** is depicted in FIG. 1 with a dashed line to indicate that it is an optional feature of the social network server **101**.

The storage device **141** is a non-transitory memory that stores data such as social data about the user **125a**, **125b**, **125n**. The social data describes the user's **125a**, **125b**, **125n** actions on one or more social networks and/or other information about the user **125a**, **125b**, **125n** (e.g., the user's **125a**, **125b**, **125n** gender, age, education, past and present employers, geographic location, family members, friends and the actions of the user's **125a**, **125b**, **125n** friends and family members on one or more social networks). In one embodiment, the social data can also include the user's **125a**, **125b**, **125n** comments on updates by other users **125a**, **125b**, **125n**. In another embodiment, the social data can be stored as a social graph in the storage device **141**. In yet another embodiment, the social network server **101** additionally comprises one or more of a processor (not pictured), a clock (not pictured) used to generate timestamps for user comments and other components conventional to a hardware server device. In one embodiment, the storage device **141** stores the Internet Protocol address ("IP address") for one or more of the clients **115a**, **115b**, **115n**.

The social network application **195** is code and routines stored on a memory (not pictured) of the social network server **101** that, when executed by a processor (not pictured) of the social network server **101**, causes the social network

server **101** to provide a social network accessible by a client device **115a**, **115b**, **115n** via the network **105**. A social network is any type of social structure where the users are connected by a common feature, for example, Google Plus. The common feature includes friendship, family, work, an interest, etc. The common features are provided by one or more social networking systems, such as those included in the system **100**, including explicitly-defined relationships and relationships implied by social connections with other online users, where the relationships form a social graph. In some examples, the social graph reflects a mapping of these users and how they are related or connected. In one embodiment, a user **125a**, **125b**, **125n** publishes comments on the social network and this information is stored in the social graph. For example, a user **125a**, **125b**, **125n** of the social network application **195** provides a status update and other users **125a**, **125b**, **125n** can make a comment on the status update. The status update and the comment are stored by the social network application **195** as part of the social graph in the storage device **141**.

The social network application **195** is communicatively coupled to the client devices **115a**, **115b**, **115n** via the network **105**. The social network application **195** delivers social network content to the client device **115a**, **115b**, **115n**. For example, the client device **115a**, **115b**, **115n** requests social network content from the social network application **195** and the social network application **195** provides social feed data to the client device **115a**, **115b**, **115n**. The social feed data is the information necessary to cause the client device **115a**, **115b**, **115n** to expose a Graphical User Interface ("GUI") of a social feed to the user **125a**, **125b**, **125n**. The social data stored on the storage device **141** (e.g., the social graph) includes the social feed data. The GUI depicts the social feed. The social feed is a data feed that includes at least a portion of the social data stored on the storage device **141**. For example, the social feed includes a description of activities performed by one or more users on the social network represented by the social network application **195**. In one embodiment, the storage device **141** stores all or a subset of the social data used to generate the social feed.

An activity is an action taken on the social network. Examples of the activity include: providing a status update; making a comment on a status update; establishing a friendship association; editing profile information; and/or managing privacy settings, etc. In one embodiment, an activity performed by a user is associated with a user input. For example, a first user **125a** uses an input peripheral (e.g., a keyboard) and a browser **177** or a display application **178** stored on the first client device **115a** to perform an activity on the social network.

In one embodiment, the social feed includes a description of all onsite activities one or more users **125a**, **125b**, **125n** have performed on the social network. In one embodiment, the social network application **195** only collects this information with the user's permission and uses any collected information in accordance with the permission given by a user.

The language determination module **191** is code and routines stored on a memory (not pictured) of the social network server **101** that, when executed by a processor (not pictured) of the social network server **101**, causes the social network server **101** to translate the social feed from a first language to a second language. In one embodiment, the language determination module **191** identifies the language based on the language itself. For example, a first user **125a** has a friendship relationship stored in the social graph connecting the first user **125a** to a second user **125b**. The first user **125a** communicates using the English language. The second user **125a** commu-

nicates using the Italian language. The second user **125b** provides a status update to the social network. The status update is written in the Italian language, which the language determination module **191** identifies based on the status update. In another embodiment, the language determination module **191** identifies the language based on the location of the user or the language preference listed in the user's profile. In one embodiment, the language determination module **191** decorates the translated social feed with a graphic indicating that the social feed is translated from a first language to one or more second languages.

The storage device **141** stores one or more of the IP addresses for one or more of the users **125a**, **125b**, **125n**, the expected language preference for various IP addresses and a default language for one or more of the users **125a**, **125b**, **125n**. In one embodiment, the IP address for the first user **125a** indicates that the first user **125a** is geographically located in the United States and therefore likely to speak the English language. The language determination module **191** retrieves the IP address, determines that the first user **125a** is likely to speak the English language. The language determination module **191** communicates with the social network application **195** and translates the social feed data before it is sent to the first client **115a** and displayed on the browser **177** or the display application **178** so that the second user's **125b** status update is displayed in the English language and not in the Italian language. In another embodiment, the first user's IP address indicates that the first user **125a** is geographically located in Mexico and so, the language determination module **191** communicates with the social network application **195** so that the second user's **125b** status update is displayed in the Spanish language.

In yet another embodiment, the language determination module **191** retrieves data from the storage device **141** indicating that one or more of the users **125a**, **125b**, **125n** that the first user **125a** is in a relationship with (e.g., a friend, a family member, a co-worker, etc.) communicate in the English language. For example, one or more of the first user's **125a** friends have the English language set as their default language. In another example, the language determination module **191** includes code and routines to parse the activities of the first user's **125a** friends and determine based at least in part on these activities that one or more of the first user's **125a** friends communicate in the English language. The language determination module **191** communicates with the social network application **195** to deliver social feed data to the client **115a** that causes the browser **177** or the display application **178** to display the second user's **125b** status update in the English language. The language determination module **191** is described in more detail with reference to FIG. 5.

In one embodiment, the language determination module **191** translates the social feed data based on the identity of the user **125a**, **125b**, **125n**. For example, the user **125a**, **125b**, **125n** saves information in the user's profile indicating that the user is a speaker of a specific language or prefers to communicate using a specific language and the language determination module **191** translates the social feed data based at least in part on this information.

The translation server **107** is a hardware server device. For example, the translation server **107** is a hardware server operated by Google® of Mountain View, Calif. In one embodiment, the translation server **107** sends and receives data to and from one or more of the social network server **101** and one or more of the client devices **115a**, **115b**, **115n** via the network **105**. For example, the translation server **107** is a hardware server that provides the Google® Translate service to the client device **115a**, **115b**, **115n**.

The translation server **107** comprises a translation module **193** and a storage device **143**. The translation module **193** comprises code and routines configured to receive social feed data from the social network application **195** encoded so that the social feed is in a first language. The translation module **193** is stored in a memory (not pictured) of the translation server **107**, and when executed by a processor (not pictured) of the translation server **107**, the translation module **193** translates the social feed data so that the social feed is in a second language. The storage device **143** is a non-transitory computer-readable memory that stores data and/or information necessary for the translation module **193** to perform its function.

In one embodiment, the client device **115a**, **115b**, **115n** communicates with the social network application **195** via the network **105** to request social feed data from the social network application **195**. The social network application **195** communicates with the client device **115a**, **115b**, **115n** via the network **105** to deliver the social feed data to the client device **115a**, **115b**, **115n**. The social feed data causes the client device **115a**, **115b**, **115n** to display a social feed in a first language. The user **125a** provides an input to the client device **115a**, **115b**, **115n** requesting the social feed be displayed in a second language. The client device **115a**, **115b**, **115n** communicates with the social network application **195** to request that the social feed be displayed in a second language. The social network application **195** communicates with the translation module **193** to send the social feed data and an indication of the requested second language to the translation module **193**. The translation module **193** is executed by a processor (not pictured) of the translation server **107** to cause the processor to translate the social feed data to the requested second language based at least in part on data stored in the storage device **143**. In one embodiment, the translation module **193** translates the social feed data using any form of machine translation (e.g., rule-based, statistical, example-based, hybrid machine translation, etc.). The translation module **193** communicates with the client device **115a** via the network **105** to deliver the translated social feed data to the client device **115a**. The translated social feed data causes the client device **115a** to display the social feed in the requested second language. The translation module **193** and the storage device **143** are described in more detail below with reference to FIG. 2.

The client device **115a**, **115b**, **115n** is any computing device. For example the client device **115a**, **115b**, **115n** is a personal computer ("PC"), smart phone, tablet computer (or tablet PC), etc. One having ordinary skill in the art will recognize that other types of client devices **115a**, **115b**, **115n** are possible. In one embodiment, the system **100** comprises a combination of different types of client devices **115a**, **115b**, **115n**. For example, a first client device **115a** is a smart phone, a second client device **115b** is a personal computer and a plurality of other client devices **115n** is any combination of a personal computer, a smart phone and a tablet computer.

The client device **115a**, **115b**, **115n** comprises a browser **177**. The browser **177** is code and routines stored in a non-transitory computer-readable memory of the client device **115a**, **115b**, **115n** and is executed by a processor (not pictured) of the client device **115a**, **115b**, **115n** for displaying data retrieved via the network **105**. For example, the browser **177** is a browser application such as Google® Chrome. In one embodiment, the browser **177** comprises a memory for storing data, code and/or routines.

In one embodiment, the client device **115a**, **115b**, **115n** is a mobile device, such as a smart phone, that includes a display application **178**. The display application **178** is code and

routines stored in a non-transitory computer-readable memory of the client device **115a**, **115b**, **115n** and is executed by a processor (not pictured) of the client device **115a**, **115b**, **115n**. In one embodiment, the display application **178** is a thin client that relies on the browser **177** to retrieve information from the network **105** and generates a display on the client device **115a**, **115b**, **115n**. In one example, the display application **178** is an application dedicated to displaying only information received from the social network server **101**. Persons of ordinary skill in the art will recognize that references to the client device **115a**, **115b**, **115n** performing steps such as receiving data and displaying data can be references to the browser **177** or the display application **178**, or a combination of the browser **177** and the display application performing those steps.

Translation Module

Referring now to FIG. 2, the translation module **193** is shown in more detail. FIG. 2 is a block diagram of the translation server **107** that includes the translation module **193**, a processor **235** and the storage device **143**. The processor **235** comprises an arithmetic logic unit, a microprocessor, a general purpose controller or some other processor array to perform computations, execute the modules **201**, **209**, **211** and the engines **203**, **205**. The processor **235** is coupled to the bus **220** for communication with the other components. Processor **235** processes data signals and may comprise various computing architectures including a complex instruction set computer (CISC) architecture, a reduced instruction set computer (RISC) architecture, or an architecture implementing a combination of instruction sets. Although only a single processor is shown in FIG. 2, multiple processors may be included. The processing capability may be limited to supporting the display of images and the capture and transmission of images. The processing capability might be enough to perform more complex tasks, including various types of feature extraction and sampling. It will be obvious to one skilled in the art that other processors, operating systems, sensors, displays and physical configurations are possible. The processor **235** is communicatively coupled to the bus **220** via signal line **236**.

The storage device **143** stores instructions and/or data that may be executed by the processor **235**. For example, the storage device **143** stores language data **241** and graphical data **245**. In one embodiment, the storage **143** stores social data **243**, which includes user interactions, a social graph, etc. The storage device **143** is communicatively coupled by the bus **220** for communication with the other components of the translation server **107**. The storage device **143** is a database, dynamic random access memory (DRAM) device, a static random access memory (SRAM) device, flash memory or any other memory device known in the art. In one embodiment, the storage device **143** also includes a non-volatile memory or similar permanent storage device and media such as a hard disk drive, a floppy disk drive, a CD-ROM device, a DVD-ROM device, a DVD-RAM device, a DVD-RW device, a flash memory device, or some other non-volatile storage device known in the art. The storage device **143** is communicatively coupled to the bus **220** via signal line **238**. In one embodiment, the storage device **143** stores other components.

The language data **241** is data necessary for the decoding engine **203** and the re-encoding engine **205** to perform their functions. For example, the language data **241** comprises data necessary for the decoding engine **203** and/or the re-encoding engine **205** to perform one or more of rule-based, statistical, example-based and hybrid machine translation of the social feed data from a first language to one or more second languages. In one embodiment, the language data **241** comprises one or more of the following: one or more linguistic rules; one

or more lexicons with morphological, syntactic, and semantic information; a corpus of data necessary for statistical translation; one or more dictionary entries; a bilingual text corpus; etc.

The graphical data **245** is data used by the Graphical User Interface module **211** (“GUI module **211**”) to decorate the translated social feed with a graphic indicating that the social feed is translated from a first language to one or more second languages. For example, the translated social feed includes a graphical ribbon along the top of the user interface indicating that the social feed has been translated from a first language to a second language. The GUI module **211** retrieves data from the graphical data **245** necessary to cause the client device **115a**, **115b**, **115n** to decorate the translated social feed with this graphic.

The translation module **193** comprises a communication module **201**, the decoding engine **203**, the re-encoding engine **205** and the GUI module **211**. In one embodiment, the translation module **193** also comprises a social context module **209**. The social context module **209** is depicted in FIG. 2 with a dashed line to indicate that the social context module **209** is an optional feature of the translation module **193**. The modules **201**, **209**, **211** and the engines **203**, **205** communicate with each other via the bus **220**. The communication module **201** is communicatively coupled to the bus **220** via signal line **222**. The decoding engine **203** is communicatively coupled to the bus **220** via signal line **224**. The re-encoding engine **205** is communicatively coupled to the bus **220** via signal line **226**. The social context module **209** is communicatively coupled to the bus **220** via signal line **228**. The GUI module **211** is communicatively coupled to the bus **220** via signal line **230**.

The communication module **201** is code and routines for communicating with one or more of the client devices **115a**, **115b**, **115n** and the social network server **101** via the network **105**. In one embodiment, the communication module **201** communicates with the social network server **101** via the network **105** to receive at least a portion of the data necessary for the translation module **193** to perform its function. For example, in one embodiment the communication module **201** communicates with the social network application **195** to receive from the social network application **195** one or more of the social feed data, an identifier of the user **125a**, **125b**, **125n** and an indication of the one or more second languages requested by the user **125a**, **125b**, **125n** (i.e., which languages the user **125a**, **125b**, **125n** has requested the social feed be translated to). The communication module **201** communicates with the client device **115a**, **115b**, **115n** via the network **105** to send the translated social feed data to the client device **115a**, **115b**, **115n**. In one embodiment, the translated social feed data includes the graphical data necessary to cause the client device **115a**, **115b**, **115n** to display the graphic indicating that the social feed has been translated from a first language to one or more second languages. In one embodiment, the communication module **201** manages communications among the modules **209**, **211** and the engines **203**, **205**.

The decoding engine **203** is code and routines for decoding the social feed data in accordance with any form of machine translation (rule-based, statistical, example-based, hybrid machine translation, etc.). The decoding engine **203** is communicatively coupled to the communication module **201** to receive the social feed data from the communication module **201**. The decoding engine **203** is communicatively coupled to the storage device **143** to retrieve at least a portion of the language data **241** necessary to decode the social feed. In one embodiment, the decoding engine **203** includes a parser.

The re-encoding engine **205** is code and routines for re-encoding the social feed data in accordance with any form of

machine translation (rule-based, statistical, example-based, hybrid machine translation, etc.) from the first language to one or more second languages. The re-encoding engine 205 is communicatively coupled to the communication module 201 to receive the indication of the one or more second languages from the communication module 201. The re-encoding engine 205 is communicatively coupled to the decoding engine 203 to receive the decoded social feed data from the decoding engine 203. The re-encoding engine 205 is communicatively coupled to the storage device 143 to retrieve at least a portion of the language data 241 necessary to re-encode the decoded social feed data to the one or more second languages.

The output of the re-encoding engine 205 is the translated social feed data. The translated social feed data is configured to cause the client device 115a, 115b, 115n to display the translated social feed. The translated social feed is the social feed translated from a first language to one or more second languages. In one embodiment, the GUI module 211 communicates with the re-encoding engine 205 to cause the translated social feed data to include graphical data that causes the client device 115a, 115b, 115n to display a graphic in the translated social feed indicating that the social feed is translated from a first language to one or more second languages. The decoding engine 203 communicates with the communication module 201 to send the translated social feed data to the re-encoding engine 205.

In one embodiment, it is desirable to translate only a portion of the social feed data. For example, translating only a portion of the social feed data beneficially enables the translation module 193 to perform its function in less time and serve the translated social feed data to the client device 115a, 115b, 115n quicker than if the translation module 193 translated the entire social feed. For example, the user 125a, 125b, 125n specifies that only a portion of the social feed should be translated from a first language to one or more second languages. In one embodiment, the social network application 195 receives from the client device 115a, 115b, 115n an indication that only a portion of the social feed should be translated and an indication of which portion should be translated. These indications are referred to herein as “the subset command.” The social network application 195 receives the subset command from the client device 115a, 115b, 115n and communicates with the translation module 193 to send the subset command to the translation module 193. The components of the translation module 193 then take steps necessary to translate only the portions of the social feed data specified by the subset command. Thus, in one embodiment, the decoding engine 203 and the re-encoding engine 205 are configured to translate a portion of the social feed from a first language to one or more second languages based at least in part on the subset command. In one embodiment, the re-encoding engine 205 is configured to translate a first portion of the social feed to one language and a second portion to a different language.

The social context module 209 is code and routines that determines one or more portions of the social feed to be translated by the other components of the translation module 193. For example, assume that the translation module 193 is configured to only translate portions of the social feed that have an activity by the user 125a, 125b, 125n (e.g., the translation module 193 only translates the portion of the social feed that have been commented on by the first user 125a that requested the translation). The social context module 209 communicates with the communication module 201 and receives from the communication module 201 the social feed data and an identifier of the user 125a, 125b, 125n requesting the translation. The identifier of the user 125a, 125b, 125n requesting the translation is the screen name of the user 125a,

125b, 125n or any other information present in the social feed data that identifies the user 125a, 125b, 125n requesting the translation. The social context module 209 analyzes the social feed data or the portion of the social feed data to determine which portions of the social feed have been acted on by the user 125a, 125b, 125n requesting the translation. For example, the social context module 209 includes a parser that is configured to parse the social data 243 and identify a portion of the social feed that has been acted on by the user 125a, 125b, 125n requesting the translation. In one embodiment, the social context module 209 analyses the social feed data based at least in part on the identifier of the user 125a, 125b, 125n requesting the translation. For example, the social context module 209 parses the social feed data based at least in part on the identifier of the user 125a, 125b, 125n requesting the translation. The social context module 209 communicates with the decoding engine 203 and/or the re-encoding engine 205 to translate the portions of the social feed acted on by the user 125a, 125b, 125n requesting the translation.

In another embodiment, the social feed data includes data indicating a relationship with the user 125a, 125b, 125n requesting the translation and the social context module 209 works with the other components of the translation module 193 to translate the social feed data based at least in part on the data indicating the relationship. In one embodiment, a second user 125a, 125b, 125n has a relationship with a first user 125a, 125b, 125n requesting the translation if the two users 125a, 125b, 125n are friends, family members, co-workers, friends of friends, etc. Such users 125a, 125b, 125n are referred to herein as “relations.” For example, the user 125a, 125b, 125n requesting the translation specifies that they only want portions of the social feed that have been acted on by a family member to be translated. This preference of the user 125a, 125b, 125n requesting the translation is communicated to the social network application 195 by the client device 115a, 115b, 115n and the social network application 195 communicates this request to the translation module 193. The communication module 201 communicates this request to the social context module 209. The social context module 209 analyses the social feed data to determine the one or more relationships of the user 125a, 125b, 125n requesting the translation and to determine which portions of the social feed data should be translated. For example, the social context module 209 parses the social feed data based at least in part on one or more relationships of the user 125a, 125b, 125n requesting the translation. In one embodiment, the relationships are stored as social data 243, for example, as a social graph. The social context module 209 determines which portions of the social feed data should be translated based at least in part on this parsing. The social context module 209 communicates with the decoding engine 203 and/or the re-encoding engine 205 to translate the portions of the social feed acted on by one or more users 125a, 125b, 125n having a relationship with the user 125a, 125b, 125n requesting the translation.

In yet another embodiment, the user 125a, 125b, 125n requesting the translation requests that the translation module 193 translates only portions of the social feed data that are acted on by one or more users 125a, 125b, 125n specified by the user 125a, 125b, 125n requesting the translation. The social context module 209 takes steps necessary to accommodate this request similar to those as described above for relationships. The above described functions performed by the social context module 209 are referred to herein as “determining a social context for the translation.”

The GUI module 211 is code and routines that retrieves the graphical data 245 or a portion of the graphical data 245 from

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the storage 143 and uses this data to determine and include in the translated social feed data the graphical data necessary to decorate the social feed data with graphic indicating that the social feed has been translated from a first language to one or more second languages.

Methods

Referring now to FIGS. 3-5, various example embodiments will be described. FIG. 3 is a flow diagram of one embodiment of a method 300 for translating a feed for a social network. The translation module 193 receives 301 the social feed data and a request for translation from the social network application 195. The request includes one or more of an indication of the one or more second languages, the identity of the user 125a, 125b, 125n requesting the translation and a subset command. The translation module 193 translates 303 the social feed data based at least in part on the request. The translation module 193 transmits 305 the translated social feed data to the browser 177 or the display application 178 stored on the client 115a, 115b, 115n.

FIG. 4 is a flow diagram of another embodiment of a method 400 for translating a feed for a social network. The communication module 201 receives 401 the social feed data and the request. The decoding engine 203 decodes 403 the social feed data. In one embodiment, decoding 403 the social feed data includes retrieving necessary language data 241 from the storage device 143. Optionally, the social context module 209 communicates with the decoding engine 203 to determine 405 the social context for the translation. The re-encoding engine 205 re-encodes 409 the decoded social feed data. Optionally, the re-encoding engine 205 re-encodes 409 the decoded social feed data based at least in part on communications with the social context module 209. In one embodiment, re-encoding 409 the social feed data includes retrieving 407 necessary language data 241 from the storage device 143. The GUI module 211 determines graphical data to include in the translated social feed data. The GUI module 211 communicates with the re-encode engine 205 to encode 411 the graphical data in the translated social feed data. The communication module 201 transmits 413 the translated social feed data to the browser 177 or the display application 178 stored on the client device 115a, 115b, 115n.

In one embodiment, the methods 300 and 400 are modified so that the translation module 193 translates the social feed data without the social network application 195 receiving a request from the client device 115a, 115b, 115n that the social feed be translated from a first language to one or more second languages. For example, the social network application 195 is configured to send the social feed data and the request to the translation module 193 via the network 105 automatically. The client device 115a, 115b, 115n requests social content from the social network application 195. For example, the first user 125a uses the browser 177 or the display application 178 stored on the client device 115a, 115b, 115n to load a website providing the Google® Buzz service. The social network application 195 communicates with the translation module 193 so that the social feed data is transmitted first to the translation module 193. The translation module 193 translates the social feed similar to method 300. For example, the social feed data includes an identifier of the user 125a, 125b, 125n using the client device 115a, 115b, 115n to access the social network. The social context module 209 parses the social feed data to determine which language the user 125a, 125b, 125n usually communicates with or the language of the user's 125a, 125b, 125n relations. The social context module 209 communicates with the decoding engine 203 and the re-encoding engine 205 so that the social feed data is translated based at least in part on the language that the user 125a,

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125b, 125n communicates with and/or the language of the user's 125a, 125b, 125n relations.

FIG. 5 is a flow diagram of another embodiment of a method 500 for translating a feed for a social network. The language determination module 191 receives 501a request to translate the social feed data. The language determination module 191 translates the social feed data based at least in part on one or more of an IP address for the client device 115a, 115b, 115n whose browser 177 or display application 178 is requesting the social feed data, one or more relations of the user 125a, 125b, 125n of the client device 115a, 115b, 115n whose browser 177 or display application 178 is requesting the social feed data and the identity of the user 125a, 125b, 125n of the client device 115a, 115b, 115n whose browser 177 or display application 178 is requesting the social feed data.

Steps 503, 505 and 507 are depicted in FIG. 5 with a dashed line to indicate that they are optional features of the method 500. At step 503 the language determination module 191 determines the IP address for the client device 115a, 115b, 115n whose browser 177 or display application 178 is requesting the social feed data. At step 505 the language determination module 191 determines one or more relations for the user 125a, 125b, 125n of the client device 115a, 115b, 115n whose browser 177 or display application 178 is requesting the social feed data. At step 507, the language determination module 191 determines the identity of the users 125a, 125b, 125n of the client device 115a, 115b, 115n whose browser 177 or display application 178 is requesting the social feed data.

The language determination module 191 determines 509 one or more languages to translate the social feed data to based at least in part on one or more of the IP address, the relations and the identity determined in steps 503, 505 and 507. The language determination module 191 translates the social feed data based at least in part on the one or more determined languages. The language determination module 191 encodes 510 graphical data in the translated social feed data. The language determination module 191 transmits 511 the translated social feed data to the browser 177 or the display application 178 of the client device 115a, 115b, 115n that requested the social feed data.

The foregoing description of the example embodiments of the specification has been presented for the purposes of illustration and description. It is not intended to be exhaustive or to limit the disclosure to the precise form disclosed. Many modifications and variations are possible in light of the above teaching. It is intended that the scope of the disclosure be limited not by this detailed description, but rather by the claims of this application. As will be understood by those familiar with the art, the specification may be embodied in other specific forms without departing from the spirit or essential characteristics thereof. Likewise, the particular naming and division of the modules, routines, features, attributes, methodologies and other aspects are not mandatory or significant, and the mechanisms that implement the disclosure or its features may have different names, divisions and/or formats. Furthermore, as will be apparent to one of ordinary skill in the relevant art, the modules, routines, features, attributes, methodologies and other aspects of the specification can be implemented as software, hardware, firmware or any combination of the three. Also, wherever a component, an example of which is a module, of the specification is implemented as software, the component can be implemented as a standalone program, as part of a larger program, as a plurality of separate programs, as a statically or dynamically linked library, as a kernel loadable module, as a

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device driver, and/or in every and any other way known now or in the future to those of ordinary skill in the art of computer programming. Additionally, the disclosure is in no way limited to implementation in any specific programming language, or for any specific operating system or environment. Accordingly, the disclosure is intended to be illustrative, but not limiting, of the scope of the specification, which is set forth in the following claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A computer-implemented method for translating a first social feed, the method comprising:

receiving, with a processor, social feed data and a request from a first user for a translation, the social feed data configured to cause a client to display the first social feed in a first language;

determining, with the processor, a social context for the translation, the social context including which relationships are associated with the social feed data using a social graph, wherein the social graph comprises relationships between the first user and at least one second user;

receiving, with the processor, a user input from the first user specifying a particular relationship for which the social feed data should be translated;

determining, with the processor, a relationship between the first user and the second user based at least in part on the social context for the translation and whether the relationship matches the particular relationship specified by the user input;

determining, with the processor, a first portion of the first social feed for translation based at least in part on whether the relationship between the first user and the second user matches the particular relationship, the first portion including one or more portions of the social feed data associated with the second user;

translating, with the processor, the social feed data that is associated with the first portion of the first social feed so that the translated social feed data causes the client to display the first portion translated into one or more second languages based at least in part on the request and the social context; and

transmitting, with the processor, the translated social feed data to the client for the first user to view.

2. The method of claim **1**, further comprising:

identifying a second portion of the first social feed that is associated with a third user, the third user having a different relationship with the first user than the particular relationship; and

excluding the second portion from translation based at least in part on the different relationship.

3. The method of claim **1**, wherein the request is a subset command that includes a first indication that only the first portion of the first social feed should be translated and a second indication of what language the first social feed should be translated into.

4. The method of claim **1**, wherein the social feed data is a description of all onsite activities on a social network.

5. The method of claim **1**, wherein determining the social context for the translation includes determining one or more social activities of the first user requesting the translation and a language used by the first user in the one or more social activities.

6. The method of claim **2**, wherein the particular relationship between the first user and the second user in the social graph is closer than the different relationship between the first user and the third user in the social graph.

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7. The method of claim **1**, further comprising encoding graphical data in the social feed data that causes the client to generate a graphic indicating that the first social feed has been translated.

8. A computer program product comprising a non-transitory computer readable medium storing a computer readable program, wherein the computer readable program when executed on a computer causes the computer to perform steps comprising:

receiving social feed data and a request from a first user for a translation, the social feed data configured to cause a client to display a first social feed in a first language;

determining a social context for the translation, the social context including which relationships are associated with the social feed data using a social graph, wherein the social graph comprises relationships between the first user and at least one second user;

receiving a user input from the first user specifying a particular relationship for which the social feed data should be translated;

determining a relationship between the first user and the second user based at least in part on the social context for the translation and whether the relationship matches the particular relationship specified by the user input;

determining a first portion of the first social feed for translation based at least in part on whether the relationship between the first user and the second user matches the particular relationship, the first portion including one or more portions of the social feed data associated with the second user;

translating the social feed data that is associated with the first portion of the first social feed so that the translated social feed data causes the client to display the first portion translated into one or more second languages based at least in part on the request and the social context; and

transmitting the translated social feed data to the client for the first user to view.

9. The computer program product of claim **8** further comprising:

identifying a second portion of the first social feed that is associated with a third user, the third user having a different relationship with the first user than the particular relationship; and

excluding the second portion from translation based at least in part on the different relationship.

10. The computer program product of claim **8**, wherein the request is a subset command that includes a first indication that only the first portion of the first social feed should be translated and a second indication of what language the first social feed should be translated into.

11. The computer program product of claim **8**, wherein the social feed data is a description of all onsite activities on a social network.

12. The computer program product of claim **8**, wherein determining the social context for the translation includes determining one or more social activities of the first user requesting the translation and a language used by the first user in the one or more social activities.

13. The computer program product of claim **9**, wherein the particular relationship between the first user and the second user in the social graph is closer than the different relationship between the first user and the third user in the social graph.

14. A system for translating a first social feed, the system comprising:

a communication module communicatively coupled to a social network application via a network to receive

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social feed data configured to cause a client to display the first social feed in a first language and a request from a first user for a translation from the social network application requesting that a first portion of the first social feed be displayed in one or more second languages;

a decoding engine communicatively coupled to the communication module to receive the social feed data from the communication module, the decoding engine configured to decode the social feed data to generate decoded social feed data;

a social context module communicatively coupled to the communication module to receive the social feed data, to determine a social context for the translation, the social context including which relationships are associated with the social feed data using a social graph, wherein the social graph comprises relationships between the first user and at least one second user, to receive a user input from the first user specifying a particular relationship for which the social feed data should be translated, to determine a relationship between the first user and the second user based at least in part on the social context for the translation and whether the relationship matches the particular relationship specified by the user input and to determine the first portion of the first social feed for translation based at least in part on whether the relationship between the first user and the second user matches the particular relationship, the first portion including one or more portions of the social feed data associated with the second user; and

a re-encoding engine communicatively coupled to the communication module, the decoding engine and the social context module to receive the request from the communication module, the decoded social feed data from the decoding engine and the social context from the social context module, the re-encoding engine configured to re-encode the decoded social feed data that is associated with the first portion of the first social feed to cause the client to display the first portion translated into the one or more second languages based at least in part on the request and the social context, wherein the communication module is further configured to transmit the translated social feed data to the client for the first user to view.

15. The system of claim **14**, wherein the social context module identifies a second portion of the first social feed that is associated with a third user, the third user having a different relationship with the first user than the particular relationship; and

wherein the re-encoding engine excludes the second portion from translation based at least in part on the different relationship.

16. The system of claim **14**, wherein the request is a subset command that includes a first indication that only the first

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portion of the first social feed should be translated and a second indication of what language the first social feed should be translated into.

17. The system of claim **14**, wherein the social feed data is a description of all onsite activities on a social network.

18. The system of claim **14**, wherein determining the social context for the translation includes determining one or more social activities of the first user requesting the translation and a language used by the first user in the one or more social activities.

19. The system of claim **15**, wherein the particular relationship between the first user and the second user in the social graph is closer than the different relationship between the first user and the third user.

20. The system of claim **14**, further comprising a graphical user interface module communicatively coupled to the re-encoding engine to encode graphical data in the social feed data that causes the client to generate a graphic indicating that the first social feed has been translated.

21. The method of claim **1**, further comprising parsing, with the processor, the social feed data to determine which language the first user usually communicates with and wherein the translating includes translating the social feed data to the language that the first user usually communicates with.

22. The method of claim **1**, further comprising parsing, with the processor, the social feed data to determine a language used by other users that are related to the first user in the social graph and wherein the translating includes translating the social feed data to the language used by the other users.

23. The computer program product of claim **8**, further comprising parsing the social feed data to determine which language the first user usually communicates with and wherein the translating includes translating the social feed data to the language that the first user usually communicates with.

24. The computer program product of claim **8**, further comprising parsing, with the processor, the social feed data to determine a language used by other users that are related to the first user in the social graph and wherein the translating includes translating the social feed data to the language used by the other users.

25. The system of claim **14**, wherein the social context module parses the social feed data to determine which language the first user usually communicates with and wherein the re-encoding engine translates the social feed data to the language that the first user usually communicates with.

26. The system of claim **14**, wherein the social context module parses the social feed data to determine a language used by other users that are related to the first user in the social graph and wherein the re-encoding engine translates the social feed data to the language used by the other users.

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